Collecting Minimal Facts: A New Training

Paticia Harmon, Executive Director at CornerHouse, discussed the our new training, Collecting Minimal Facts with our Training Director, Mary Ann Saurino. Read about how the training was developed, why it is important, and registation offerings.

PH: Mary Ann, tell us how the Collecting Minimal Facts training was developed? What was the need identified?

MAS: The CornerHouse vision is that children grow up free from abuse. In order to achieve this vision, our community must work together to identify and support vulnerable people whom we suspect are being abused, neglected or maltreated. Although difficult, an initial conversation can bring support to individuals in need of it—and begin their journey toward healing. CornerHouse has developed Collecting Minimal Facts in order to teach
everyone two important skills: how to guide children, teens and vulnerable adults through an initial, limited disclosure; and how to make an effective report.

**PH:** How do you see this training helping children in our community?

**MAS:** Children will benefit because community members will have the confidence and the skills needed to help them access the support and services they need.

**PH:** As an educator, you have spoken of how helpful these training would have been to you as a teacher. Tell us how you see this being so for educators, law enforcement and others?

**MAS:** When I became a teacher, I also became a mandated reporter. However, at no point in any of my pre-service or in-service training did I learn what that entailed. Consequently, when I received my first disclosure, I was completely unprepared to gather and organize sufficient factual information and present what I had learned in the form of a report. Although I figured out what I had to do, advance preparation would have allowed me to be more supportive of my student and more effective as a reporter.

**PH:** What can learners expect from the training?

**MAS:** People who attend this training will learn how to talk to a vulnerable individual who may have experienced abuse about what happened in a way that is respectful and also protects the integrity of a potential, future investigation. And, they will learn how to make an effective report to appropriate authorities.

**PH:** How long does it last and how much will it cost?

**MAS:** The training is a total of 4 hours long, one hour online and 3 hours in person. The normal cost is $150. In order to encourage people to attend this training, CornerHouse is making this special offer for the upcoming May 17, 2016 and July 19, 2016 Collecting Minimal Facts trainings: The first 8 registrants qualify for half-price tuition. This brings the cost down to $75 per person.

**PH:** How do people register for the class?

**MAS:** Registration is available online [here](#). Please contact Melissa Henry, Training Outreach Coordinator, with questions or for assistance.
Scholarship Application

Do you work in Minnesota? Are you interested in attending training? Apply for a scholarship!

CornerHouse offers a limited number for scholarships for people who work in Minnesota through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. This scholarship covers the entire cost of tuition.

We will be awarding individual scholarships for the Basic Forensic Interview Training in August, October, and November/December and the Advanced Forensic Interview Training in September. We will also be offering one scholarship for an On-site 1-Day Protocol Update.

The application will be available on April 7 and is due on April 22. The application will be online; incomplete applications will not be considered. We will announce the awards on May 2, 2016.

Timeline

Applications Open:
April 7, 2016

Applications Due:
April 22, 2016

Announcement of Awards by email:
May 2, 2016

Upcoming Events

May 2-6: Basic Forensic Interview Training
Learn More and Register Here!

May 17: Collecting Minimal Facts Training
Learn More and Register Here!

July 19: Collecting Minimal Facts Training
Learn More and Register Here!
August 22-26: Basic Forensic Interview Training

Learn More and Register Here!

September 27-29: Advanced Forensic Interview Training

Learn More and Register Here!

Assures that the voices of children and adolescents are heard.

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